



BOOTH UC

CONNECT



DR. CYNTHIA SOTTIE

THE
Accidental
SOCIAL WORKER

FALL/WINTER 2017



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Booth UC Connect Magazine is published twice yearly. We want to share the good news of what has been happening at Booth University College.

As the name of the publication suggests, Booth UC thrives on our connections between instructors and students and between theory and practice. Equally valued are the linkages between this institution and learning partners across Canada and around the world. And then there are the connections with people like you. Together, we are shaping the future.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The start of another academic year holds all the promise that this season represents—new and returning students, both eager and anxious as they navigate through the first few weeks of classes; new and continuing staff and faculty settling into the rhythm of the semester; and the activity of implementing plans for the current year, balanced against the need to keep looking ahead to the overall mission and strategy.



On June 20, 2017, I had the privilege of representing Booth University College at the signing ceremony for the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord. Booth University College recognizes our opportunity and responsibility to participate in the reconciliation process both in reducing educational gaps for Indigenous communities, and in ensuring our academic programs and institutional supports foster understanding, empathy and mutual respect. We acknowledge that Booth University College is on Treaty One territory in the heart of the Metis Nation. By participating as a partner, we have publicly committed to supporting and contributing to the process of reconciliation. Our first step is to establish an Indigenous Advisory Council to develop a cohesive plan that will enhance Booth University College's response to the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action*, guided by the vision, commitments and principles of the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord.

Our participation in the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord is a tremendous opportunity, privilege and responsibility. Our participation is consistent with our Mission as an institution of Christian higher education, it is consistent with our physical location in the heart of Winnipeg, and with our commitment to bringing together scholarship and Christian faith, hope, justice and mercy.

Enjoy this edition of *Booth UC Connect*. Celebrate the stories, articles and updates you will read about. And always, we ask you to pray for the students, staff and faculty of Booth University College as we seek to live out our commitment to Education for a Better World.

Dr. Marjory Kerr
President



THREE JOURNEYS

There are as many roads to Booth UC as there are reasons for coming. Here are just three...



CASSIA MARIA DA CRUZ SANTOS: "Booth Is Like a Mother to Me"

When asked why Cassia Maria da Cruz Santos thought of Canada as a place to immigrate with her husband, Marcos Ronay Griebler, and son, Henrique Santos Ronay, she has a two-word answer: "Maple Bear."

Henrique was being schooled in a Maple Bear school, part of a Canadian-run organization with institutions around the world.

"My son wears a Maple Leaf on his school uniform and his class sings O Canada," she smiles. "Canada was already a part of our lives. It just made sense."

FOLLOWING THE DREAM

Born in Niterói, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro, Cassia was a TV reporter by trade, but when she and her husband had a son, they started working on plans to strike out somewhere new.

"I love Brazil, but there was something inside myself," she says. "I'd always wanted to reach further. I love the English language and I'd dreamed of studying and living abroad. Becoming parents made my husband and I realize that we could not put off that dream any longer."

The family arrived in Canada two days before Christmas 2015.

THE SMALLER THE BETTER

Cassia and her family did not arrive in Winnipeg by accident.

"We did a lot of research before. We didn't want to live in a large city such as Rio, Toronto or Vancouver. We wanted a real Canadian experience and we knew Winnipeg would welcome us with open arms."

It didn't take long for Marcos, a systems analyst, to land a job as a business intelligence consultant.

As for Cassia, she wanted to go back to school and major in communications and English, and a friend of hers recommended Booth UC.

Cassia chose a smaller school for the same reason that she chose a smaller city. "I could not see myself in a class with hundreds of students. I love my classmates, the staff is friendly and I have access to all the professors."

OPTIONS OPEN

Cassia has started her fourth semester at Booth UC.

"Booth is like a mother to me!" she laughs. "I don't take too many courses every semester because I'm really trying to get the maximum experience out of my time here. I'm savouring every minute!"

Cassia has enjoyed her experience so much that a friend of hers from Brazil is immigrating to Canada and starting at Booth on her stellar recommendation.

"Show me the way,' my friend asked me," says Cassia. "So I did. She wanted to have the same wonderful Canadian experience that I've had. I told her the reasons why I chose Winnipeg and Booth: 'I'm studying at a University that is small, that is friendly and has a Christian background.'

"Before I knew it, she was on her way here!"

While Cassia is thinking of a career in journalism or marketing, she's taking as many electives as she can.

"I'm open to Canada and to all its opportunities!"

JAPHLET LOLO: Everybody Knows His Name

Japhlet Lolo was born in Kenya to Salvation Army officers and lived most of his life there.

After high school, he moved to Nairobi where he majored in business, but he quickly grew disillusioned.

"I chose business because I thought it paid well, not because I was passionate about it," he says. "I needed something that would make me happy."



And Japhlet realized he was happiest when he was helping people.

“On the weekends, our church’s worship team would come to my house and hang out,” he says. “I loved serving people and many of my friends would come to me for advice. I realized that social work might be where my future was, dealing with people one on one.”

Over the Christmas holidays in 2015, Japhlet went to visit his parents, who were now stationed in Zimbabwe. While there, he met a woman who was also visiting her own Salvation Army officer parents. She had attended Booth UC 14 years before and told Japhlet all about her time there.

The glowing endorsement convinced Japhlet and his parents.

COLD SNOW, WARM DORMS

Japhlet applied and was accepted to Booth UC, arriving this past January in the dead of winter.

“I had no idea!” Japhlet laughs now. “I had never ever seen snow before.

“I really didn’t know what to expect,” he continues. “I arrived dressed like a Kenyan in T-shirt, jeans and a light windbreaker. Luckily, the student services director who came to pick me up at the airport had figured it out so he had brought along a winter jacket, gloves and boots!

“It was impressive to see all this white snow. The cold part, not so much! I didn’t expect that. Luckily, the dorms are warm.”

FEELING GOOD

Japhlet used his first semester to take the introductory courses he will need to apply to the four-year social work degree, and he can’t wait for the new year to start.

“My favourite thing about Booth has been the professors,” he says. “They are friendly, know about you and care about you and call you by name. If I had a problem while writing a paper, I could email them and they would immediately respond, which was very helpful.”

Japhlet also appreciated the small class sizes, but for a reason one might not expect: “I was able to hear the professors clearly.”

But it was during the summer that Japhlet really came to appreciate Booth UC.

“I didn’t have a place to stay,” he says. Booth UC found him a place to stay in residence and employed him on several summer jobs at reception, in the kitchen and in the hospitality department.

“Thanks to Booth UC, I have experience to add to my resume.

“I knew they cared about me in class, but knowing they cared about me after the school year was over made me feel good.”

ERICA DASS: Not a Face in the Crowd

Erica Dass was born in Malaysia to missionary parents. When she was five, the family moved to Ethiopia for five years, where they had a street ministry for the homeless. Back in Malaysia, Erica’s favourite subject was English and she decided to study English Literature.

“My uncle lives in British Columbia and my sister is working toward a degree in counselling and theology in Surrey, B.C.,” Erica says, “so I looked up Christian Universities in Canada that had English programs, and Booth UC popped up.”

As it happened, a family friend lived in Winnipeg and when he was contacted, told the Dasses that not only had he heard about it but he lived five minutes away from the school. He and another family friend who had attended Booth UC both gave glowing reviews. On the strength of both recommendations, Erica chose Booth UC.

She applied, was interviewed by Admissions via Skype and was accepted. The next thing Erica knew, she was on a flight to Winnipeg, visa and papers in hand.

“ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE”

Erica is majoring in English and minoring in film.

“I really enjoyed my first year,” she says. “I mostly concentrated on the prerequisites, which was really fun because they were courses I normally would not have taken, such as Psychology. Even though I am a Christian, I took the Introduction to Christianity course that is a prerequisite. That was an interesting learning experience because I grew up doing Sunday School and my parents were missionaries, so I sometimes forget that other people don’t have the same experiences and so it was interesting to see how they understood the Bible in comparison to myself.”

Erica also took Urban Service Learning, where students are required to volunteer in the city. “I volunteered at a soup kitchen,” she relates. “It was an eye-opener learning about Canada, but through the eyes of those who are not in a place of privilege.

“I enjoy the class sizes because they’re not large,” she continues, “which means you can ask questions or start discussions with the professors and your voice isn’t lost. I really liked that sort of learning experience. You’re not just a face in a crowd.”

“I’m looking forward to meeting some new professors as well as sampling different types of literature,” Erica says. “I surprised myself by enjoying Shakespeare, so anything is possible!”



BUILDING

Booth UC

Important infrastructure upgrades have given the Waldron Building some real street cred

"Waldron looks absolutely fabulous!"

When Booth UC students, faculty and staff return to class this semester, they'll be greeted by some welcome and much-needed changes to the main campus building at 447 Webb Place, now known as Waldron Building.

The renovations were timed to coincide with Booth UC's 35th anniversary convocation weekend earlier this year though not everything was complete by that date. However, the finishing touches were put in place in time for the beginning of the new academic year.



Three years ago, The Salvation Army’s Territorial Headquarters hired EXP, a large and respected national engineering firm, to conduct building condition assessment studies on a number of institutions and properties across Canada—including Booth UC—to see what was needed to continue to keep these buildings functioning over the next decade and a half. As a result, funds were allocated for projects specifically named in the study.

The following is a list of the infrastructure projects Booth UC prioritized that were undertaken over the past year:

- Renovation and refurbishing of all residence dorm rooms;
- Renovation of first and second floor washrooms;
- New walk-in freezer/cooler;
- New front steps and doors;
- New front entrance landscaping;
- Service elevator replaced;
- Passenger elevators replaced.

BOOTH CARES

The renovations are evident even before one steps into the building.

“Sliding doors have been installed and we’ve replaced the front entrance and accessibility ramps,” says Denise Young, Vice President Administration. “Coupled with the fact that the sidewalk and street in front of the building were repaved by the city, Waldron looks absolutely fabulous!”

Inside, the freight lift and the passenger elevators have been refurbished, and other improvements were put in place.

Reactions from students, faculty and staff have been tremendous. “A lot of the students were gone before the work was completely finished but everybody is pretty excited—especially about the washrooms,” Denise laughs. “And they are quite spectacular!”

While the changes were made to bring operating systems up to code and ensure that the structures will continue to be safe and usable over the next 15 years or so, the renos were welcome for another reason.

“It shows students, faculty and staff that Booth UC continues to move forward,” Denise believes. “Academic progress is important and these infrastructure changes directly impact our students’ well-being, welfare and morale. In a very real sense, it shows that Booth UC cares and is investing in the future.”



OPENING DOORS IN WINNIPEG



A unique event at The Salvation Army's 290 Vaughan Street building showcased its past, spotlighted its present and celebrated its future.

Last year, Major Andrew Morgan, the Assistant Principal at The Salvation Army's College for Officer Training (CFOT), happened upon a pamphlet produced by the City of Winnipeg's Historical Buildings Committee on the Robinson Building on 290 Vaughan Street, which houses Booth UC's John Fairbank Memorial Library, School for Continuing Studies, CFOT and The Salvation Army's divisional headquarters.

"While working through some infrastructure upgrades, I happened to notice that this building was built in 1917, making it a hundred years old this year," says Major Andrew.

In the course of his research, he also discovered that the building had housed *The Grain Growers' Guide*, which had become an advocate for Prairie farmers around the turn of the last century.

"*The Grain Growers' Guide* represented those who had no voice, the under-represented, the marginalized, the ones hard done by," says Major Andrew. "A hundred years later, The Salvation Army, CFOT and Booth UC are in the building: training, preparing and equipping individuals to go out and be the voice of the voiceless, to represent the marginalized and assist those who are being hard done by today."

That connection was uppermost in his mind as he requested permission from the city to take part in the annual Doors Open event, held this past May 28 and 29.

GOOD-NEWS STORY

"The city planners were quite excited by our request because this was the first time The Salvation Army had asked to participate in the event," continues Major Andrew. "An Easterner like me had been unaware of the historical and architectural importance the building held, but this was a drawing card for many of the visitors. I didn't know about it before but the people around here certainly did."

A total of 262 individuals came through on the Saturday and Sunday, escorted by Salvation Army cadets, staff and volunteers. The building's opening also received local TV and newspaper coverage.

The renovations exposed the hundred-year brickwork and concrete pillars and opened up the building so that natural light floods the chapel. "It's a really beautiful building," says Major Andrew. "And people marvelled at our hundred-year-old elevator, which still functions!"

For Booth UC, it was a way to explain its presence to people who had often passed by the building but had never entered.

"Not only were we able to show what we've done to make the building so beautiful, so warm and so receptive but we were also able to tell people that Booth UC is a fully fledged degree-granting university college, and students across the country and around the world flock to Booth to benefit from the educational programs offered," says Major Andrew. "And with our Divisional Headquarters, this building is the central hub for administration and leadership through Manitoba and Saskatchewan and as far as northwestern Ontario, helping people at their point of need."

"It's a good-news story for folk from Manitoba to see that The Salvation Army and Booth UC are using this historic building to make a meaningful difference, now and in the future."

"A hundred years later, The Salvation Army and Booth UC are in the building: training, preparing and equipping individuals to go out and be the voice of the voiceless, to represent the marginalized and assist those who are being hard done by today."



As a retired member of the Canadian Armed Forces and a member of The Salvation Army, Linda Colwell is ...

UNDER TWO

Flags

This past August, Brigadier General Linda J. Colwell became the Chair of Booth UC's Board of Trustees, succeeding Salvation Army Colonel Glen Shepherd.

Now retired, Linda had a stellar career in the military, serving in a number of posts across Canada and at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. As a logistics officer, she gained wide experience in providing financial, matériel and human-resources support. Overseas appointments included assignments with the U.N. Emergency Force and the Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt.

"After I left the military, I was able to give quite a bit of time to volunteering in addition to my church life, of course," she says. A Soldier at The Salvation Army's Ottawa Citadel, Linda has been Corps Sergeant-Major for 17 years.

Four years ago, Linda was asked to join Booth UC's Board of Trustees and she readily accepted. In that capacity, she was part of the committee tasked with searching for a replacement for the outgoing Booth UC President, Dr. Donald Burke, a search that resulted in the selection of Dr. Marjory Kerr. Linda's expertise in human resources no doubt stood her in good stead during that process.

"As Board Chair, I'll work with the members of the Board to provide the governance framework required to support Dr. Kerr and her team as they develop and expand Booth UC's operations and course offerings," Linda states.

"One of these directions is building on our enrolment and working on new programs with the aim of eventually applying to become part of Universities Canada, the national organization of universities, which, like Booth UC, are committed to delivering the highest quality of post-secondary education," she says. This would be a significant step in reinforcing Booth UC's reputation in Canada and internationally as a world-class Christian institution of higher education.

"Booth UC has made great progress, particularly in the last five years, and that progress is continuing under Dr. Kerr's leadership, but Booth UC has always been very fortunate over the years that each of its presidents has provided exactly the leadership needed at that time.

"And now Booth has just celebrated its 35th anniversary," concludes Linda. "These have been very exciting times but the best is surely yet to come!"

DRIVING ACADEMICS FORWARD

Musical notes filled the Hetherington Chapel, setting the tone for the Opening Convocation and installation of Dr. Michael W. Boyce as the new Vice President Academic and Dean. In his role, Dr. Boyce will provide leadership for the academic programs and serve as a key member of Cabinet for Booth University College.

He confessed when initially informed about his installation, from Dr. Marjory Kerr, President of Booth UC, he felt utter dread. "I don't want to be the centre of attention." After further thought, he realized the significance of the ceremony wasn't about him; it was about marking the academic year and the variety of feelings that come with that. He drew from the prophet Jeremiah's words regarding road signs and guideposts, sharing, "there are rhymes and seasons built into the academic year. It's important to put up guideposts, remembering important moments along the journey—happy and sad."

Dr. Boyce emphasized that to get the most out of your life and the university experience, both shared and individual time must be valued. "In doing so, it'll prepare you for periods of hard work, celebration and reflection."

The service ended with a delicious reception in the Booth Bistro, an excellent way to mark the start of the year and to share time together.



THE *Accidental* SOCIAL WORKER

For Associate Professor Dr. Cynthia Sottie, social work is a calling beyond price

“I can’t think of anything as satisfying as social work,” declares Dr. Cynthia Sottie, Associate Professor at Booth UC.

“To be able to go to bed at night and know that this family is not going to go hungry because you directed them to a resource, or that a person is no longer going to sleep on the streets, is a feeling beyond words. You’ve put a smile on someone’s face. You’re making a difference in someone’s life.”

Cynthia was transferred to the social work department, a subject so new, it was not even listed as a category on the university application form.

PLAN B

For someone so passionate about her profession, social work was not Cynthia's first choice of a vocation.

"I got into social work by accident," she laughs.

"When I applied to university, I wanted to do a Bachelor's in Administration," she explains. "I loved accounting. I wanted to be an accountant, just like my dad."

But hundreds of students applied for the limited spaces available in the few universities in her native Ghana, so when she did not get her first choice, Cynthia was transferred to the social work department, a subject so new, it was not even listed as a category on the university application form.

"I was so sad," she says now. "I had never heard of social work before—none of my friends had, either. It was as if my world had fallen apart."

But after just a few weeks of classwork, she fell in love with it. "I was an accidental social worker, but I feel God planned it that way. He had His own plans for me, and I'm grateful I was given the opportunity."

"I'M HOME"

Cynthia earned her Masters of Social Work degree at West Virginia University, followed by a doctorate at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. After she graduated, she worked in the community mental health care area in Ohio before returning home, where she became the head of the social work department at the University of Ghana.

"During that time, my husband was accepted to do his doctorate in Canada at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, so the whole family moved to Canada with him," says Cynthia.

Her first perceptions of Canada were encouraging.

"Even upon arrival, Canada was welcoming," she says. "There was such a sharp contrast between this country on the one hand, and the United States and the United Kingdom on the other. In many countries, people just don't seem to care. Here, the immigration officers gave my kids advice on where and how to dress for the winter! And one of the officers even told me where to apply for jobs! I was amazed. Right there at the airport, my first impression was, I'm home."

CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM

While Cynthia's husband pursued his doctorate and their two daughters stayed with him, she continued with her teaching position at the University at Ghana, visiting her family twice a year while she started a job search here in Canada.

"Lo and behold, I found Booth University College on one of the online job search sites," Cynthia says.

"To be honest," she continues, "I had never heard of Booth UC, but what attracted me to the institution was the fact that it was a Christian university. That and social work just came together for me. To know I can practise my faith while doing my job at the same time is just so rewarding!"

Cynthia started at Booth UC in July 2016 and has enjoyed every minute of it.

"There's a wonderful feeling of community here at Booth UC," she goes on to say. "The atmosphere is cordial and I enjoy attending chapel. My colleagues are friends as well as workmates. You don't always get that at other institutions."

Cynthia especially enjoys the small class sizes at Booth UC compared to the University of Ghana, where class sizes can range in the hundreds compared to the dozens each of her classes have here.

"That's pretty manageable," she says. "It's much more fun teaching smaller classes than larger ones. It's easier to engage with the students and to get to know them on a personal level."

"When class sizes are large, the shy students don't speak up," she goes on to say. "But when classes are smaller, students feel more comfortable to talk and contribute, so class size is an important factor in how students interact."

It is not just the size of the classes that Cynthia appreciates but the students in them. "They come to class ready to contribute, and they've actually read the course material," she marvels. "And they're ready to share their experiences with their fellow classmates. That kind of enthusiasm is contagious."

HELPING PEOPLE

The Sotties now live in Winnipeg.

"My two teenaged daughters adore the city," Cynthia says, "especially as we moved here from a smaller town. They can't get enough of Winnipeg's ethnic diversity and they have made friends from all over the world. And they love the shopping!"

As for Cynthia, she's a voracious reader in her spare time but this academic has two guilty secrets. "I love courtroom dramas," she says, "especially the works of John Grisham, and I'm a fan of thrillers, especially the *Die Hard* movies and the *24* series. I've watched every single movie and episode!"

However, her first love remains social work and she inculcates that in every class she teaches.

"On the first day of class, the very first thing I tell my students is that social work is a calling," Cynthia says. "You have to have a heart for it, you have to be someone who is passionate about empowering and aiding others, you have to be someone who loves to see people make it in life. That's what social work is all about."

"It's about helping people."



HOW HE SPENT HIS SUMMER VACATION

This past July and August, Booth UC student Joshua Rempel embarked on a unique experience. For three weeks, he was the guest of the European Innovation Academy (EIA), a non-profit educational institution recognized for excellence in tech entrepreneurship education. EIA educational programs are jointly developed with professionals of world-class partner universities and companies. In its many locations throughout Europe, future entrepreneurs and business leaders from more than 75 different nationalities receive a priceless experience in real-world education. Booth UC has now partnered with EIA, and Joshua was the first Booth UC student ever to participate.

At the EIA, teams of five students have 21 days to grow an idea from inception into a business model, after which they are judged by an international panel of business professionals, and are mentored by seasoned educators and professionals.

"This is not just a theoretical exercise," cautions Angela Davis, Associate Professor of Business Administration and Head of Booth UC's Business Administration program. "A number of products have actually launched from the EIA experience to become successful businesses."

A student who applies for the opportunity to go to the EIA needs to have strong grades, of course, but also has to be an exceptional person who can handle working under stress. "It's not for everybody," says Professor Davis. "We look for students who are excellent representatives of Booth UC, who have the academic and personal strength to succeed." The EIA also has an entrance process of its own in place, which includes an interview. "Besides having strong marks, Josh is a very creative and innovative student. It appeared the EIA would be a great fit for him."

FROM SOUP TO BOOTH

Josh had wanted to be a chef in high school and had enrolled in the culinary arts program. "But I was also taking business courses at the same time," he says, "so I'd know how to open my own restaurant. The business part won out!

"I was looking for a business school that would match my personality and character," he goes on to say. But the colleges and universities Josh looked at seemed too competitive for his taste. "They had a cutthroat style that I just did not like. Booth UC was very much business but with a Christian influence. It fit me better. Add that to the smaller classes and the great professors and that made Booth UC the only option for me."

"Besides having strong marks, Josh Rempel is a very creative and innovative student. It appeared the EIA would be a great fit for him."

TO PORTUGAL AND BACK

"I was excited and nervous," Josh says on his decision to take part. "This was my first trip outside of North America."

He'd first heard about the EIA at a meeting attended by the Booth UC business students. "It seemed like a wonderful opportunity to network and meet students from around the world," he says.

Josh landed at Lisbon, Portugal on July 15 and took the train to Cascais, one of the EIA centres. There he immediately dove into work for the next three weeks.

Mornings were spent in class with lectures focused on that day's subject. "If the day was devoted to marketing strategy, for instance, marketing people from around the world would come in and lecture," says Josh. Other days would be devoted to topics such as venture capitalists, developing prototypes, validating product and developing market fit.

"It was awesome to take in all this real-world expertise."

Afternoons were spent in group work. Josh's group's project was an artificial intelligence software for medical purposes that would combine CT scans and X-rays with patient data to provide a more accurate patient diagnosis.

"We were focused on building up our company," says Josh. "Some days we were developing our prototype, others were devoted to marketing strategies and developing a business plan and revenue model, talking to consumers and making contacts within the industry. It was a lot of work and very intensive."

But by the end of those 21 days, Josh's group had a working prototype of their business model and had a marketing strategy all mapped out, and received grades and a certificate of completion for their efforts.

While Josh decided to opt out of the next stage of actually launching the business because of distance, time and language hurdles, he's thrilled with his stint at the EIA.

"I enjoyed every minute of the experience," he says. "I gained valuable expertise and developed connections that will stay with me forever. It was the opportunity of a lifetime."

"We have an exciting partnership in place with the EIA and it's wonderful to see Booth UC students mingle with those from Berkley, Tsinghua and other top-tier universities," says Professor Davis. "Josh is our first student to attend the EIA and he will be graduating in the spring, so this was a wonderful way to help kick off his last year. Josh has been a Booth UC student ambassador, and with the EIA, he became a Booth UC ambassador on the world stage as well. I'm proud of what he accomplished."



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EIA PROGRAM AT BOOTHUC.CA/BUSINESS

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THE *Gatekeeper*

For almost a decade, the smiling face of Sherilyn Burke has been the first exposure to Booth UC that almost every visitor gets—and students and faculty alike wouldn't have it any other way.



Sherilyn Burke was manning her post at the front desk of the Waldron Building when a first-year student came to her in distress.

"She'd wrenched her neck and was in obvious pain," Sherilyn says.

While she wasn't living in residence, she was from out of town staying with an aunt in the city, but she couldn't reach her, no one on staff was available—and her pain was worsening.

So after getting a colleague to cover the desk, Sherilyn bundled the student into her own car and drove her to the ER.

"I did what needed to be done," Sherilyn modestly says. But the student, who will graduate this year, never forgot that day.

"Every time I see her, it brings to mind that afternoon," Sherilyn smiles.

And that is precisely what every visitor sees first when they visit Booth UC.

"I make it a point that every time someone comes in, I lift my head and give that person a big smile," Sherilyn says. "I always want people to feel welcome when they walk through that door."

CHARTER YEARS

The daughter of Salvation Army officers, Sherilyn was in her teens when she heard that the Army was starting a Bible college.

"I was a typical Army youngster," Sherilyn says. "If something was happening, I wanted to be there."

So she applied and became part of Booth UC's charter class.

"I loved every minute," she remembers. "We knew this was the start of something new and exciting—we students often talked about being in a fish bowl because all eyes were on us, watching to see how it would go. It was a real community—staff and students alike were all one big family—and a number of us still keep in touch."

CALLED TO SERVE

After Sherilyn graduated in 1985, she married Professor Donald Burke a year later. Various employment stints—Booth UC choir leader, church secretary, even travel agent—followed until two children came along.

"I loved being a stay-at-home mom," she says, "but as my kids got older, I realized I needed to do something outside the home."

Gravitating to her alma mater, she pursued opportunities at Booth UC. As the last part-time position was winding down, Sherilyn heard of a new initiative that was being launched.

"A student services area was being planned for the main lobby," she explains, "and they were looking for someone to work the reception area, meet and greet, that sort of thing."

"The job offer came up casually in a conversation," she goes on to say, "but as I look back now, I feel that I was being called. I still feel that way today."

"I'm helping people—and I love it! This is the place to be!"



“THE PLACE TO BE”

When asked what an “average” day entails, Sherilyn has no simple reply.

“I interact with everyone who walks in the door,” she explains. “Certainly the one constant from August through to April are the students, but what I love about the job is the variety.

“Most days, I’m problem solving this and trying to figure out that and taking in keys and selling Booth-wear and calling taxis and before you know it, the day is done! But I’m helping people—and I love it! This is the place to be!”

CHECKING IN

There’s more to Sherilyn’s job than that, however.

“I’ve been called by many students their ‘school mom’ because I really take an interest in them,” Sherilyn says. “I’ll ask how they’re doing and when resident students walk out into the winter without a jacket, I’ll tell them what I think about that . . . and that maybe they should think twice!”

One incident stands out for her. A few years ago, Sherilyn noticed a student walk by the front desk. She could tell things were not well.

“I knew she was having a rough transition from high school but she was a quiet girl and never opened up.”

So without her knowing, Sherilyn went to the Dean of Students, who discreetly checked up on her. Just that extra interaction was a turning point for the student.

“I felt like I checked in that day and was able to help,” says Sherilyn.

GRACE NOTES

And the students have appreciated that checking in.

Sherilyn attends the yearly convocation ceremony—“and I cry every year, I’m so proud of them”—and without fail, she receives the single roses that the graduating class give out to those on the staff

who have inspired them. And she’s kept every thank-you card that every student has given her. Here’s a sampling:

- Just wanted to say, I've appreciated the friendliness from the front desk over the last two years and that the effort to remember everyone's name has not gone unnoticed. As a graduating student, this is something I'll remember.*
- Thank you for all you have done during my time at Booth. You have made me feel so welcome and appreciated. Your positivity has made me feel comfortable coming to you whenever I needed to.*
- Thank you for your warm smile and welcoming attitude every time I walked into the school. You have no idea how that totally made many of my days over the past few years.*

ONE TEAM

Now in her eighth year, Sherilyn knows every student by name.

“I want people to feel when they come in that they’re noticed, they’re welcomed, they have a place here,” she states. “That this is their community and we’re happy they’re here. And I want to help them succeed because their success is Booth UC’s success—we’re all in this together.

“And I feel that we are all a team, no matter where we work in the building or what we do. We’re all working toward the same goal, and that is helping students succeed and go out and make a better world.”

Fear and Trembling

The Book of Job forces us to confront our deepest questions about God.

BY DR. DONALD E. BURKE

I haven't taught the Book of Job for many years. It's not always an experience I embrace, because what the book demands of me is not so much that I "teach," but that I journey with Job—that I share his tragedy, his abandonment, his outrage and his confrontation with God. Students who fully enter the text also find that they are laid bare, that the study of Job is not so much a spectator sport as it is an experience that engulfs us. In some mysterious way, Job has the power to put into words what we have always been afraid to think or say. Reading Job isn't for the faint-hearted. Read at your own risk! Let me explain why.

THE CONTEST

The Book of Job opens in the heavens, in the royal court of God. Surrounded by the heavenly host, God calls the assembly to order. All seems to go according to protocol until God spots the satan, an enigmatic figure whose role is to search throughout the earth to test God's creatures. At the time Job was written, the satan was not yet understood as Satan, the incarnation of evil or the Evil One. In Job, satan is more of a title, a role, than it is a personal name. The satan was God's private investigator, the crown prosecutor who would probe beneath the surface to expose the darkest secrets and foibles of God's creatures. So, we have to set aside our thinking about Satan to let the satanic figure in Job play his role.

Job's troubles start when God points him out to the satan and claims that he is a person of unsurpassed moral quality, someone who fears God and shuns evil. There is no one else as virtuous, no one who can hold a candle to Job. But the satan is not prepared to accept this assertion. "Does Job fear God for nothing? Isn't Job God-fearing and righteous simply because that's what gives him all the good things in life? Take it all away and then we'll see his true colours." The satan wants to test Job. Shockingly, God accepts the challenge and grants the satan the authority to strip Job of his wealth and his family. A series of tragedies befalls Job in rapid succession. Just as Job's uprightness seems almost unbelievable, so, too, is the series of disasters that takes from him his children, his flocks and herds, and all of his wealth. Job's response seems a little too pious as well—he seems almost untouched by his losses. "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (see Job 1:21). It appears that God has won the wager with the satan—Job is indeed a God-fearing, righteous man, the likes of which the world has never seen.

GOD'S JUSTICE IS FAR GREATER, FAR RICHER AND PERHAPS EVEN FAR DARKER THAN WE CAN SEE.

SUFFERING AND SILENCE

In a second round of trials, the satan ups the ante, this time afflicting Job within an inch of his life with oozing sores from head to toe. Observing her husband's excruciating suffering, Job's wife encourages him to curse God and die to end his torment. But Job rejects her advice, scolding his wife sharply. Deprived of his children, stripped of all his possessions and suffering unbearably, now he is alienated even from his wife.

Friends gather around Job. They remain silent, as does Job in his suffering. Until Chapter 3, that is. After seven days of silent vigil with his friends, Job finally speaks and a torrent of words spills out. What he says is an utter shock—the pious, tempered Job is gone. Exposed before us is a Job we have not seen before. He curses the day of his birth and the night of his conception. The darkness envelops him. He demands to know why this is happening to him. What wrong has he done to deserve this? Job comes to the brink of cursing God, as his wife had encouraged.

Throughout the succeeding chapters, Job says outrageous—even blasphemous—things about God. This is not the patient Job we are so often taught about. This is Job's darkest soul exposed. Outraged by the injustice of his losses, paralyzed by his unbearable pain, Job rants—even rages—against God, demanding a hearing. "Put me on trial! Give me my day in court and then we'll see who is righteous!" he screams at God. Job accuses God of all manner of ill will and wrongdoing against him. Yet God is silent.

It is the silence that is killing Job. It is the silence of God in his darkest hour that shocks Job the most and thrusts a knife into his heart. Yet, even in the midst of his rants and in the face of God's silence, Job clings to God. He will not let God go; he hounds God, relentlessly pursuing justice, seeking a hearing with God. One word would suffice. But all he hears is a divine silence.

On the other hand, Job's friends can't keep their mouths shut. They rush to God's defence, forgetting that it is not God who needs a friend, a defender, an advocate, but rather Job. They accuse Job of being a secret sinner, someone whose piety is external, a show for others to see, but whose heart is darkened by every vice imaginable. The only explanation they have for Job's situation is that he must have committed some grievous sin. After all, according to their theology, the righteous prosper and the wicked suffer. For them, Job's suffering is sufficient proof of his wickedness.



Through several cycles of debate, Job and his friends spar with one another: Job accusing God (and them) of abandoning him and the friends accusing Job of having done something so heinous as to deserve his suffering. How easy it is for those who are piously comfortable to judge the rage of those who are suffering!

Job is being pushed toward a God who is not bound by creeds and confessions, but who is nevertheless real. But Job's friends are tied to their theology, their assessment of how God works in the world. The righteous will be rewarded and only the wicked suffer. None of them know about the contest between God and the satan that started this whole show.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE LIVING GOD

The astonishing thing about the Book of Job is that by the end, when God finally speaks, it is Job and not his friends who God vindicates and judges to have spoken truthfully. The friends are condemned by God, their defence of God apparently unneeded or unwarranted in the face of their friend's suffering. By standing up for God, they have failed Job and now stand condemned.

Job himself does not come out of his encounter with God unscathed. He is humbled. He learns that while his treatment seems unjust from his perspective, there is a much larger work underway in the world and that God is very much involved in it. God's justice is far greater, far richer and perhaps even far darker than we can see.

Reading the Book of Job forces us to examine the depth of our love for God. Do we indeed love God simply for who he is? Is our love without strings, without the expectation that God will reward us for our faithfulness? Or do we love God because we expect a good return on our investment? Is ours a quid pro quo love? Reading Job forces these questions upon us.

What about the friends? Job forces us to think deeply about friendship and solidarity with those who are suffering. In the face of unimaginable pain, is it really necessary to defend God against accusations of injustice? Or should we take the side of our suffering friend or family member—even for a few moments, weeks or

months? Even silence would be greater wisdom in such circumstances than our rush to find words.

What about justice? We unthinkingly affirm God's justice, implying that people get what they deserve. But people often do not get what they deserve. Where is this God of justice in those circumstances? It simply is not fair, we say. Sometimes in response to the injustice of human suffering, we claim that we want to live in a world where we receive only what is fair. But what if we received only what we deserve? That would rule out grace. It would rule out gifts we do not deserve. The gratuitous acts of kindness that give depth and texture to our lives would be missing. Love itself would likely be absent, since we rarely, if ever, deserve the love others bestow upon us. Do we really want to live in a world in which fairness trumps grace?

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

As I think about it, it's little wonder that I haven't taught the Book of Job for many years. It demands so much of me. It calls me to question so many things, to think deeply about the unthinkable suffering of others, to face my own fears and disappointments. It raises questions about my theology, about how I think God is at work in the world. It forces me to step out beyond my theology to an encounter with the living God. Job prompts me to risk asking hard questions and forces me to examine my own motivations for loving God. I am left asking, "Do I really love God for who he is? Or is my love for God conditional upon God giving me all the good things I want, and saving me from all the hard things I wish to escape?" In other words, through the Book of Job God interrogates me and speaks to me bluntly. And, like Job, while I might long for the silence to end, I am not sure that I am ready to hear God's voice and to stand before God naked and exposed.

Reading the Book of Job—really reading the Book of Job—is not for the faint of heart. It requires a trusted guide, a safe place and a determination to hold on to God no matter what. As I think about it, that's also what life is about. And just as I often try to escape from life to a safe place, I also try to avoid the questions posed by Job. But Job is there, waiting for that moment when I am pressed to read the book again, ready to push me further and deeper—and, I hope, closer to God.

THE *Right Decision*

For one high school student, Booth Bound was instrumental in her decision to attend Booth UC

Kailey Gillis was a bright high-schooler from Newmarket, Ontario, whose plans about her post-secondary education were in flux.

“I had a lot of ideas but no set plan.” she recalls.

Some acquaintances of hers had mentioned Booth University College but she hadn’t taken them seriously.

“Booth was a small university in Winnipeg and I was from Ontario, after all,” she laughs.

Nevertheless, the idea of Booth UC was at the back of her mind when she met Chantel Burt, Booth UC’s Director of Admissions, at a high-school event. She encouraged Kailey to check out Booth Bound, a weekend-long series of events set aside for young Salvationists who are considering a Booth UC education. The teenager never looked back.

“It was an opportunity to come and experience living at Booth,” Kailey states, “but you also get a chance to sit down in a class of the major of your choice, so you can explore each program Booth UC offers. That spoke to me as I was unsure which direction I wanted to go.”

Not only did Kailey experience the school and the professors but she got to meet some of the students already attending the school.

“They were extremely open and welcoming to us Booth Bounders, which helped us understand the Booth community. That was really a selling point for me, based on the Christian environment and the community-like feel of the campus.”

Besides Booth, the students were given a tour of Winnipeg itself.

“I got to experience the Winnipeg vibe, which was awesome!” Kailey, now in her second year majoring in religion, goes on to say. “That sealed it for me. I believe that if I hadn’t gone to Booth Bound, I would never have ended up at Booth. Coming to Booth UC was the right decision.”



What's New AT BOOTH UC



WELCOME STUDENTS

Hi everyone! My name is Kaitlin vanDeursen, and I am the chair of the Student Life Committee and one of your female Resident Assistants for the 17/18 school year! I am so excited to see what this year brings!

The *Reader's Digest* version of myself: I am going into my third year of the Social Work program and I love school (*cough* nerd *cough*). You will usually find my head buried in a textbook and the rest of me surrounded by notes, but school isn't my whole life! I am also involved in a lot at Booth with the Student Life Committee and the Spiritual Life Committee. I like to chat and hang out with friends in between and after classes. Jokes and laughing are a must. I love music, and my instrument of choice is the piano. Some of my hobbies include running, volunteering in the community and writing. My weakness in life would be Ice Capps from Tim Hortons—I cannot resist them.

I give you all the warmest welcome—whether you are new to Booth or residence, or if you are already a “Boother.” I'm looking forward to a year full of fun and adventure.

Congratulations to the following Individuals

Professor Angela Davis on her appointed to the Treasury Board of Canada's Canadian Grain Commission Audit Committee, which maintains regular stewardship and accountability for public funds.

Dr. Roy Jeal on his election to membership in the prestigious Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, an international society of biblical scholars.

Dr. Michael Boyce on his installation as Vice President Academic and Dean.

Welcome

- Kristen McLean - Administrative Assistant, School for Continuing Studies
- Major Mark Wagner - Dean, School for Continuing Studies
- Chris Albi - Communications Specialist

NEW PROGRAMS LAUNCHED:

- Certificate in Applied Leadership
- Diploma in Business Administration

NEW BUSINESS MAJORS:

- Accounting
- Financial Crimes
- Management & Innovation
- Marketing & Communication



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